

## THE EVENING FARMER

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1909.

### CITY AUDITOR

#### KEATING'S ANNUAL

One of the most important events in the municipal year is the annual report, or rather recommendations, of City Auditor Keating. His lengthy experience in city affairs, his natural ability and his judicial temperament combine to give his recommendations an exceptional force. His recommendations, published on Monday, come under this rule, and are entitled to careful consideration by the board of Apportionment.

He calls attention, as in previous reports, to the fact that municipal expenditures are steadily increasing and are now beyond the increase in revenue coming from the increase in the grand list. The average business man who finds such a condition in his affairs takes prompt steps either to increase his income or to lessen the outgo. A similar condition now confronts the Federal and State governments, and attention is being given to the same alternatives, which would come before the business man in similar circumstances. Neither Federal, State nor municipal governments can proceed safely with a constant annual deficit, for it means an eventual resort to increase of bonded debt which in turn means an increased annual interest payment and, sooner or later, an increase in the tax rate. To a city desirous of growth, a heavy tax rate is a very grave handicap.

Auditor Keating does not, however, recommend a parsimonious economy, for he undoubtedly knows that a growing city means growing expenditures, but if we understand him aright, he would favor some manner of adjustment of increased expenditure to the grand-list increase.

He urges the collection of unpaid taxes, the total now outstanding being over \$200,000. It is, as he says, unjust to those who pay their taxes, to allow others to escape payment, for it means, in the end, increased taxation to make up deficit. He suggests the placing of additional facilities in the control of the tax collector.

The need of a new high school building is foreseen by Mr. Keating but, for this purpose which is for the benefit of future generations as well as the present generation, he favors the issuance of bonds redeemable in a fixed proportion yearly. There is some opposition to this project, some holding that if pupils from other towns were excluded the present building would suffice, and others that the right of education is a demand upon the city should end with the grammar school.

Whether or not the fire department has grown beyond the city's needs, is a question. The people demand efficient fire protection, and the fire record shows that we have such. Economy which resulted in heavy fire losses, would not be approved.

Efficient police protection is also an essential, and is recognized as such by Mr. Keating. Permanent pavement is also a necessity, in these days of heavy vehicular traffic. Auditor Keating recommends the use of stone, brick or wood and discountenances macadam. Asphalt is not mentioned by him, except in calling attention to the need of repaving Main street, to which he might have added Fairfield avenue where the asphalt is already badly worn.

In sewer construction he urges that the comprehensive plan recently reported by competent engineers be followed in whatever new work may be ordered. The tire plan could not be carried into effect, without necessitating either an oppressive tax rate or an issuance of bonds, neither of which is favored by Mr. Keating. Nevertheless, it is becoming more clear every year that long the city must face the question of sewer reconstruction, whatever may be the cost of a sanitary disposal of sewage.

Evidently, Mr. Keating does not view with favor the 20 year water contract, but considers himself obliged, until it may be abrogated, to recommend an appropriation covering its terms. He recommends a total tax of 15.12 mills, or one mill less than last year's rate, but the final voice upon this matter comes from the board of Apportionment. It would not be surprising if the heavy pressure upon the board for increased appropriations should result in an increased instead of a decreased rate, but the members should not forget that "hard times" still prevail in material degree and that the burden of taxation rests heavily upon many whose income last year was reduced or cut off and is still below the normal.

The Norwalk Hour, one of the very few Republican papers which are apt to "speak out in meeting" without much regard to the tender sensibilities of the party managers, says: Republicanism as expounded by Bulkeley, Brandegee, Kenealy and Co., is one of which the Republicans of the state should be proud. But

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then it is simply on a par with the Republicanism that forced Lily upon a state and party who didn't want him and had it not been for Taft and his glorious Republicanism, that same concern would have been buried so deep that it would have taken them at least two years to dig out. We are not proud of the co-partnership that is running the Republican politics of the state.

It is sometimes said that newspapers being impersonal and their expressions of opinion unsigned, no man's name becomes identified with them, and that therefore the death of men editorially connected with them, leaves no gaps. To a certain extent, this is true. They go on and on, as the stream, and the reading public finds them the same. The newspaper has a definite policy and when death removes one of its upholders, his successor assumes the burden as it was dropped from time-worn, age-stricken shoulders.

The Farmer affords, perhaps, an illustration of these truths. In 1891, its managing editor, the late James L. Gould, bereft of vision laid down his burden; but a few years later, his associate, the late Henry B. Stiles, departed this life; a year ago, Mr. Edward Butler, an editorial writer of acknowledged force, passed over to the silent beyond; but a few weeks since Mr. Seldon Waldo, a reporter, with a future of more than ordinary promise, succumbed to disease, and now Mr. Gould, who retired perforce in 1891, has joined the great majority. It makes up a notable death record for one paper.

And still the Farmer goes on, following the same policy and maintaining the same impersonal character, and so it will continue, even when in the course of time and nature others of its personnel "go hence."

### FAIRFIELD

#### New Drug Store—Snake in January—

#### New Delivery Wagons—Talk on Turkey and China—Personal Mention.

Plans on paper by a local architect, have been drawn for the new addition to the Boyle pharmacy. The building to be made of concrete blocks is to be 20 by 26 feet, two stories high, with a tower like structure one story higher at each corner. The building will face on Unquowa place. The ground floor will contain a garage for Mr. Boyle's two automobiles, and a 15 horse power engine capable of producing 250 electric lights. There will be a room for the manufacture of ice cream, and one or two large storage rooms. The house will stand 38 feet high from the sidewalk. It will make quite an addition to the architecture on the street.

Already rumor has determined that a new barber's shop will occupy the room now in the possession of Mr. Och, when he goes away, and it is said the restaurant will be turned into a billiard room. Mrs. Lizzie Sturges is home from a 10 days visit to Philadelphia. Yesterday a lady in town while crossing a field saw a snake crawling on the grass. It was of last year's vintage, of course, and the warm rays of the sun had coaxed it from its place of hibernation. It has been many years since a snake has been seen in the fields of this town in the latter part of January. Mrs. Andrew Wakeman is reported to be on the sick list.

Mrs. W. Sandford Jennings, who has been visiting friends on Greenfield Hill, has returned to her home in Biddeford, Maine. Miss Helen Jennings, of Congress street, is also in the same town visiting her family.

Miss Skidmore, having recovered from a severe attack of the measles, is now back at her desk in the grocery store of Mr. Wyrzycki. Mr. John Leahy has returned from an extended visit to New Jersey and New York. Mr. Muttitt, who has been sick for a week, is now able to resume his work as bridge carpenter for the steam railroad.

Mr. Brotherton who met with an accident in Mr. Furey's shop, while running a buzz saw, will lose the ends of three of his fingers, on the right hand. They have already been amputated by Dr. Donaldson.

Some young ladies in town have formed a club which they call the L. F. C. club, and all the High school boys are curious to know what the letters stand for.

Quite a large party went from town on Monday night to Bridgeport, to see the play called, "The Time, the Place, and the Girl."

Mr. Mercurio, the Italian fruit dealer of Broad street, arrived home from Italy Monday evening. He escaped the earthquake being in another part of the country.

Mr. George Reynolds is home from a visit to New York. Several car loads of manure have arrived at the depot for the O. G. Jennings place and Mr. Dalling has the contract for the hauling.

Mr. Flannagan is finishing up the plumbing work on the Brett residence, on Greenfield Hill.

The Shulte Wagon Manufacturing Company is building a handsome delivery wagon for the Fairfield Home Made Bakery. Another one is being constructed for Mr. Flannagan, the plumber. Business in the vicinity of the Lyceum building seems to be on the boom.

Mr. Casack, assistant at the Fairfield station, is on the sick list. Mr. Calvin Harding has been spending a few days with friends in town. Mr. Arthur Hull has gone to North Carolina on a hunting expedition.

Mrs. A. D. Penny has an attack of the grip. Miss May Furness is visiting in Kingston, N. Y.

There will be a program of 24 dances at the firemen's ball to-morrow evening and the Home Made Bakery will furnish the refreshments.

Mrs. William B. Glover has sold two lots on the beach to Alonzo C. Acker. It is thought the new owner will soon build cottages.

Miss Eliza Pike has sold two beach lots to James W. Johnson of Boston, and to Anna Johnson of Meadville, Pa. In her talk to the ladies of the

Unquowa club on Monday Mrs. Mitchell said that the problem of government is very great. The world is now so small nothing happens in one part without affecting another part. Nations must protect their citizens wherever they are. She thought we have our fingers in too many pies. She added that one of the most wonderful things in this age of the world is the number of bloodless revolutions which are taking place in different countries. Especially in this case with Turkey. She gave the women great credit for spreading literature which told of republics, freedom and constitutional government, and said they carried pamphlets all over the country, when the men did not care to do so, concealing the forbidden literature in their long sleeves. She was glad to see the strong part the women have taken in bringing about the present state of affairs in Turkey. She spoke at length of China, and said the name of the new Regent is a progressive and up-to-date man. He has abolished the distinctions between the Manchus and the Mingos, and the Chinese and the new Manchus are destined to marry a Chinese maiden. She told an interesting story about the medical profession in China under the late emperor to the effect that when the emperor was sick, some 30 of the best physicians in the realm were called in to diagnose the case. Three at a time were sent into separate rooms to make out their diagnosis, and if it was found that they disagreed in their conclusions, they were beaten with rods and dismissed.

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Monday, February 1, Wednesday, February 3, Friday, February 5, Monday, February 8, Wednesday, February 10 and Friday, February 12 from 9 A. M. to 4 P. M., and on the evenings of Wednesday, February 3 and Friday, February 12 from 7 to 9 P. M.

Dated at Bridgeport, this 26th day of January, 1909.

A. LEWIS, CHAS. J. BYRNES, OWEN BURNS, JOHN C. CURTIS, Board of Relief.

A 20 to B 11

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